(b) whether married women should be given equal legal right of sharing entire movable and immovable property of her husband;

(c) whether economic empowerment has significantly helped to salvage women from various exploitations and oppressions in the family; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to introduce any bill for protection of women from oppression and for women empowerment, if so, by when it is likely to be introduced; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) The question asks for an expression of opinion and is, therefore, not admissible under the conditions of admissibility of questions as per the Rules of Procedure for Conduct of Business in Rajya Sabha.

(c) Economic empowerment of women is an important factor in raising the overall status of women in the family and society.

(d) The Government has already enacted the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, which provides for more effective protection of the Constitutional rights of women, who are victims of violence of any kind occurring within the family. The Hindu Succession Act, 1956 has been amended in the year 2005 to remove therefrom provisions discriminatory to women in the inheritance of property including agricultural land.

Infrastructural shortage in Anganwadi Centres

2028. SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the Anganwadi Centres lack basic infrastructure like buildings, drinking water, toilets, weighing machines, tumblers and plates to feed children;

(b) if so, the action Government propose to provide necessary infrastructure;

(c) the funds allocated for Anganwadi Centres and how the same is being utilized; and

(d) the manner in which Anganwadi Centres were beneficial to the society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) conducted a Rapid Facility Survey of infrastructure facilities in about 3 lac Anganwadi Centres in 2004. The report submitted by NCAER has, *inter-alia*, brought out that:

- More than 46% anganwadis were running from pucca buildings, 21% from semi pucca building, 15% from kutcha building and more than 9% from open space.
- 27% anganwadis do not have any drinking wafer facility.
- More than 45% anganwadis have not toilet facility and 40% have the availability of only urinal.
- Nearly three-fourth of Anganwadi Centres have baby weighing scales.
- Nearly 60% anganwadis have tumblers & plates.

(b) The Scheme envisages that accommodation for Anganwadis will be provided by the local community. However, Government has, as a special case, sanctioned construction of 20,000 Anganwadi Centres in North Eastern States. Construction of 33,272 Anganwadi buildings has also been sanctioned in World Bank assisted ICDS Projects. The rent for Anganwadi Centres has almost been doubled recently. The State have been advised to provide toilet and safe drinking water facilities through convergence with the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Scheme and Total Sanitation Campaign Programme of the Department of Drinking Water Supply. For all other inputs, funds, as per approved norms, are being provided to the States by the Central Government.

(c) and (d) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme aims at holistic development of children below 6 years by providing a package of services *viz.*, supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up, referral services, pre-school non-formal eduation and nutrition & health education to the children. These services, except pre-school education, are provided to pregnant women & lactating mothers also. Anganwadi Centre is the focal point of delivery of these services. It is a Centrally-Sponsored Scheme implemented through the States. During the current year (2005-06), a sum of Rs. 2850.91 crore has been released to States/UTs till 30.11.2005.